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AUTOBIOGRAPHY

LIFE

HON. J. Q. A.



JAMES TURNER & CO
WHOLESALE GROCERS.

Hamilton, 19th April 1902

Dear Mr White

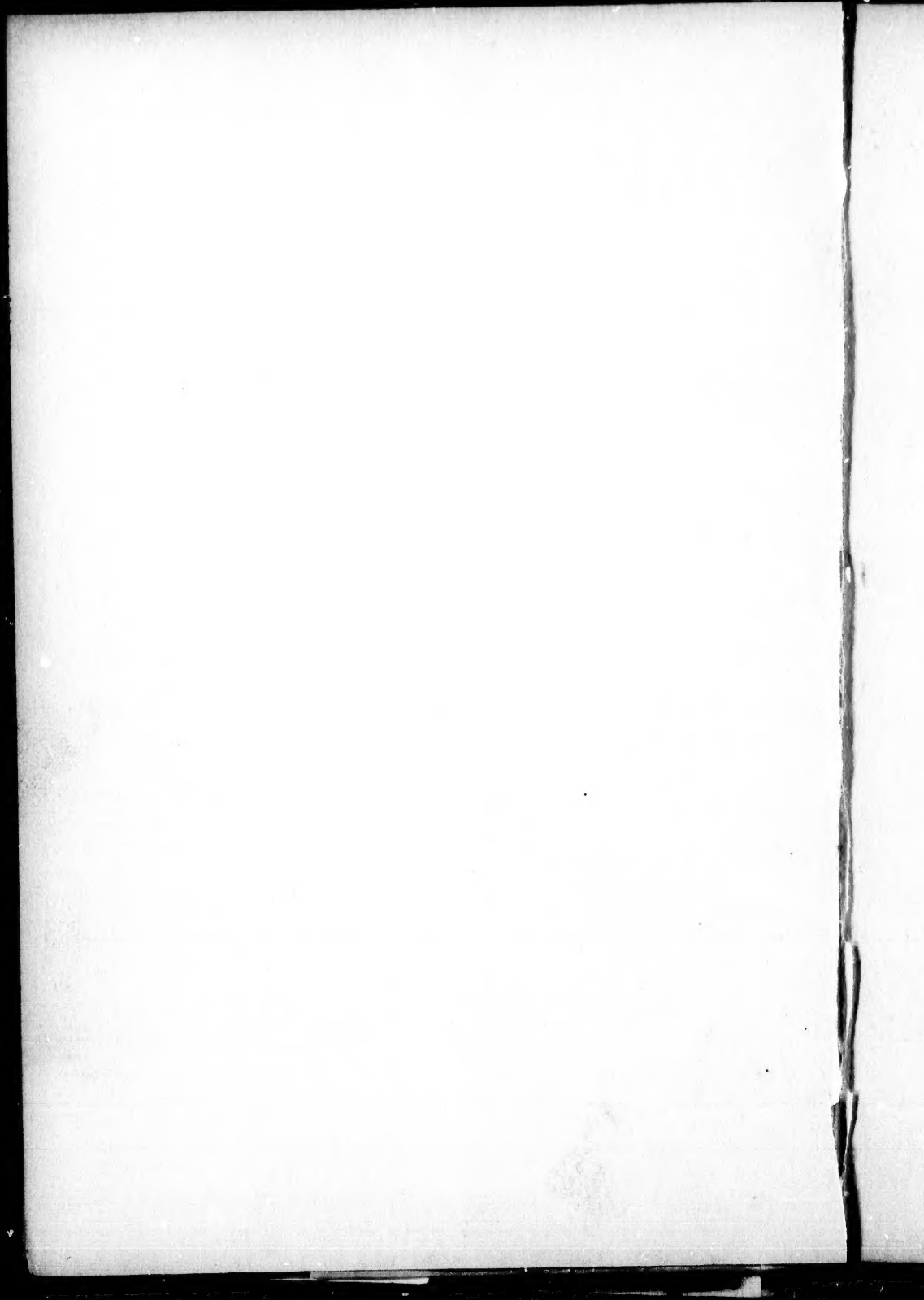
I received copy of last issue
(I suppose) of Gazette 1798. encloses a
programme of a very good dinner. The list
was in French which I did not pick up
and the lady was in English - which I fully
understood but did not benefit by. However
the picture of the President made up for all
deficiencies. it is a very good likeness and
looks like a work.

I am sending you a copy of the
Autobiography of Hon Adam Curie - I
don't know. that you know him or I think
he was dead before you came to Hamilton
but it was written by himself and refers to
ancient history in both Hamilton & Montreal
so thought you might take an interest in
reading it. There are some errors. for
instance it speaks of Mill at Dover - which
should be Doon. & was printed by the
instructions of Campbell Curie & myself &
we took chances of its being correct. the matter
is very characteristic of the old gentleman
I think regard before himself well
I remain yours very sincerely



3-

JAMES
BROWN



LIFE HON. ADAM FERRIE.

In giving a few short notes of the leading points of my life, it may be proper to refer not only to my own origin, but to that of my forefathers.

Admiral Ferrier, a Grandee of Spain, in command of the Spanish Armada, fitted out at a most enormous expense for the purpose of invading Great Britain, had his fleet dispersed by a violent gale, on their nearing the English coast. Many of his fleet were wrecked by being driven on the rocks. His own ship was driven as far up the Channel as the Islands of Cumbræ, opposite Kilbride in the Shire of Ayr. He saved part of his plate and treasure, and settled at that place, knowing that by returning to Spain in the highly excited state of that Court and Nation in consequence of the disasters that befell the immense Armament, he would certainly lose his head. He bought lands, married and had a family. The lands were handed down from generation to my father, who was left in such affluent circumstances as to prevent the necessity of his following any profession.

He, James Farrie, of Irvine, in the year 1751, at the age of twenty-one, married Jane, daughter of Thomas Robinson, of Irvine, a man of considerable fortune, which he inherited from his forefathers.

Thomas Robinson left only one son but several daughters, and it may here be observed that, at the time of his death, such was the great value of money in Scotland, that although the daughters were only left about £1,500 each, they were called heiresses.

My mother had sixteen children, nine sons and seven daughters. I was the youngest; and twelve of the family were living when I was grown up. Being the youngest of such a large family, I was made a pet of, and by far too much indulged. The consequence was that it nursed in me a naturally quick temper, that I never have been able to throw off to this day, and fear never will.

When I was only fourteen years of age I stood 5 ft. 9 in. and considered myself a man.

Some of my brothers were then owners and captains of ships trading to Jamaica, others of them were in the East Indies. I had just left school and was determined to go to sea or to India. My father sent me a trial voyage on one of his own vessels, with secret orders to the Captain, if possible, to sicken me of the seafaring life. We had very bad weather, both on our out going, and home coming, and were nearly shipwrecked. When I got home, I pretended that I had not been frightened at our narrow escapes, nor at all

disgusted with the sea. But I, with less reluctance than formerly, hearkened to the solicitations of my father and mother and brothers and sisters to settle at home and learn the manufacturing business, at this time, 1791, quite the rage amongst the gentry in Scotland as a calling for some of their sons. I was put to the weaving of muslins under the tuition of Wm. Brown, a first rate master tradesman. I was a very apt scholar, and ere long could compete with any one of them in the twelve loom shop. After being taught all the other preparatory branches and mysteries of the trade, I, on the 3rd of October, 1792, opened a warehouse.

By the support of my father, brothers and other friends, I was getting well on, until the very disastrous times in the year 1793 came. I had then made considerable credit sales, and had heavy stocks on hand. Prices fell from 30 to 40 per cent. The first mercantile houses in the country were either failing or suspending payment. My losses were, of course, to the extent of my business great. I was consequently quite dejected. My youth and inexperience led me to believe this great crisis was the finish of the manufacturing trade. I then stated these my notions to my father, and proposed winding up the business and going to try my fortune in India, as through the influence of my father and friends with the great house of Fairley, Bonum & Co'y, I could have gone out under favourable auspices. My father heard me out and was evidently much moved by my distress. Taking me by the hand, and in the clearest manner possible, pointing out that by industry and frugality, and the aid he and my brothers could give me to weather the storm, I would soon make up my late losses. He finished by urging me to go on and make as many more goods as possible at the then very low rate. I imagined that these arguments of his were for the purpose of getting me to give up my intention of going to India. I said trade would never recover the late shock. His reply was, "Trade and Commerce often get sick, but never die." This observation of his made a strong impression on my mind. Finding I still had doubts, and a wish to go abroad, he consulted a Bailie, James Young, who he knew had great influence with me. Mr. Young took in hand to get my prejudices done away with. On my calling at his house, where I very often went, he said, "What is the matter with you, Adam? You used to be the most lively young man in town, and now you are the most dejected." I told him frankly the cause of this change, and my fears that if I went on in the business, as my father and friends wanted, I might lose all the money they had loaned me. He asked me what was my actual or probable loss over the profits I had made on my sales. I told him. He said it was a small sum, and that as he was just then looking out for an able and trustworthy person to conduct the manufacturing business which he meant to commence immediately on a large scale, in order to have full stock made and ready for the market, at the then very depressed prices of yarns, weaving, &c., he would take my stocks on hand at a fair valuation, pay off my debt to my friends, and go halvers in the business with me. I agreed to his proposals and went home

quite delighted to tell all this to my father. But to my utter astonishment, he pretended to be very much offended at Mr. Young's interference, and replied, "You are offered by Mr. Young to get the half of the business only, while I offered you the whole benefit, and if the business is to be divided surely I who first set you up have the best right to a share of it." He made me go back to Mr. Young with his compliments, and best thanks for his kind offer, but the business was to be kept in the family.

The Bailie pretended to be greatly disappointed.

This was a scheme concocted between the two old gentlemen to blind me; and it succeeded.

I commenced business again with spirit and made a vast amount of goods. Trade became very brisk and I sold even my old made goods at a fair profit, and my new at an enormous profit. Within one year of the great crash, 1793, I had made up all my losses, and from £500 to £600 clear profit. I was in the year following, 1794, enabled to pay up all borrowed money, except a Bank credit I had for £300. I continued business in my native town of Irvine till May, 1799, when I moved my store and office to Port Glasgow. I employed all the weavers there and at Greenock and Kilbarhan. The principal part of my sales were to the captains of ships, and a few houses in Glasgow. I also consigned considerably to Quebec and Montreal.

In the spring of 1800, I left my business in charge of my foreman and friends, and sailed for Hamburgh with a stock of goods which was kept up by fresh shipments from time to time. I attended Lipsic and Frankford fairs, and saw a great part of Germany.

On my winding up to go home at the end of the year 1801, I was obliged to barter a deal of my goods for a cargo of Dutch cheeses, and about £1,200 worth of French cambrics. At this time there was a great deal of smuggling carried on in all fine wares. To show that I was no smuggler, I consigned all my wares to my brother-in-law, David Johnston, of Pt. Glasgow; but, both the manifest of the vessel and bill of lading to the care of the Collector of Customs at Leith. I came home by London, where I found letters informing me that my cambrics and other things were seized, as London was the only port of entry in Britain for these articles. I made light of this news, and spent ten days seeing London and all worth visiting there and for thirty miles around. Then I went to Edinburgh and petitioned the Board for liberty to ship my goods to London, under bond, so that I might pay the duties. I was told that if I did not know the laws of my own country, I should have found out before venturing to ship goods, and that it was a legal and irrevocable seizure. At this I got another petition made out in very clear and strong terms, backed by certificates of character signed by many of the most wealthy and influential gentlemen in Scotland. The Board, after great delay, at last condescended to reply, that no doubt it was a very hard case, but the law was against me; nevertheless they would take it into consideration. After four months of further delay they condemned the goods to be sold. As a last and

desperate effort, I wrote a letter to the Lords of the Treasury, telling all the particulars, with a card direct to Mr. Pitt, as first Lord of the Treasury. To the honour of that great man, in course of post I received a letter signed by him, saying that if the case was as I had stated, of which he had no doubt, I had only now to apply for my goods to be sent to London for entry. I instantly set off to Edinburgh, and on my sending my card to the Board, I was admitted, and treated in a very different way from what I was before; and the Clerk was directed to make out an order to the Collector of Leith, to see the said goods shipped to the Customs at London. But before this was all done, the short peace with France took place, and prices fell from 30 to 40 per cent., as goods in place of going at vast expense to Hamburgh with various commissions heaped upon them, were poured into the London market direct from the manufacturers. My goods netted about £600 less than cost and charges.

This case made a considerable talk in Pt. Glasgow and neighborhood.

A very intimate friend of mine, Peter McDougall, was at the time Collector's Clerk at Greenock.

Charles Oglevy, his uncle, Collector of Customs at Greenock, and Sir James Campbell, Collector of Customs at Pt. Glasgow, had at this time been displaced by the said Board in consequence of some very trifling error which they had committed in calculating the drawback on salt consumed in the fisheries. Although they offered to pay into the Treasury the amount lost, this zealous and pure Board would not listen to such a proposal, as they had their own relatives and friends hungering for the places.

Mr. McDougall on meeting me said, "you have been very badly treated by the Board of Customs, and if you wish to retaliate, I can give you the particulars of some gross mistakes of theirs, on the collection of duties on foreign sugars, by which the Government has lost from £200,000 to £300,000."

I promised to keep his name concealed, while I would follow out the case as I thought best.

He took from his pocket a very full and particular statement, giving dates, quantities, duties collected in separate Customs which should have been collected in others, and the results.

This statement I enclosed to Mr. Fox with a letter from myself pledging for its being a true and genuine statement.

In course of post I had a reply from Mr. Fox, thanking me for the information and assuring me a proper use would soon be made of it. The newspapers were filled with a strong charge against the Board of Customs at Edinburgh, for gross ignorance of the laws (what the Board accused me of) which they were largely paid for, having carried into effect, and that in Greenock and Port Glasgow alone, from £200,000 to £300,000 was lost to the Revenue of the country.

After much discussion it was ordered that said statement should be put into the hands of the commissioners then named, to be by them taken to said

ports, to be compared with the books of entry. All this was done and the statements found to be correct.

The members of the Board were all dismissed, and an interim one appointed to carry on the work.

But their political influence was such that they were reinstated within six weeks after their dismissal, with a reprimand and a notice that if any after errors took place, they would immediately lose their position. Their conduct was criticised both in public and private. My revenge shows the truth of the old proverb, "The King may come in the badger's robe."

I shortly after this was married at Port Glasgow to Miss Rachel Campbell, daughter of the late Colin Campbell of that place. She was only seventeen years of age. We had a family of twelve; nine sons and three daughters: Five of our sons died and were buried in Glasgow.

From the time I went to Glasgow, which was shortly after our marriage, I was selected by the Reformers of that city as their principal leader. I had for many years been intimate with the leading merchants, who were for the most part hot Tories. In those days politics were introduced at almost all our dinner parties, and ran very high. I fearlessly on these occasions, as well as at public meetings, espoused the Whig and Reform cause. This the Tories could not stand, and my invitations to their dinners became gradually fewer.

Colonel Wardell, in parliament, brought a charge of malversation against the Duke of York, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and was in consequence under enormous expense in defending himself against the many actions at law brought against him.

A great public meeting was held in Glasgow to propose a general subscription toward the fund raised in London, and I was called to the chair, though I took no part in calling the meeting. On the spot there was upwards of £200 subscribed, and so sanguine was the committee of management, that they begged me to remit £300, and that they would see me paid. Long and flaming advertisements were put in all the newspapers of the City, requesting those favourable to the cause to contribute to the fund; but no great exertions were made. When I came to demand my money, I found the whole contribution amounted to about £270, out of which came the expenses for rent of hall, advertising, &c., in all amounting to £34.

Long afterwards, accounts came into me from all over the country for advertising in the papers. I refused payment on the grounds that no orders were ever given by me or the Committee. One of the claimants took me into court, and the violent Tory judge found me liable. This was published in the papers, and brought numerous summons against me, which I paid to save expenses, which would be far more than the claim.

Such were the rankerous feelings at that time, that those my political opponents thought they could not in any way recommend themselves so well to those in power as by acting in every possible way against me. My relatives

begged me to give up taking such an active part in politics, for they thought it likely I would be assassinated.

The Government employed spies to watch Reformers, and the highest judges on the bench acted in the very teeth of justice to have a hit at them. I could not with the slightest chance of success take the very best case into court.

I will give this incident to prove it.

I made public some of the malversations of the under Sheriff, who was also Assessor and Collector of the various taxes under which the people were then groaning. He was brother to Chief Sheriff Hamilton. I was standing on the Irongate, when he came behind me and struck me a most violent blow, which he would have repeated had he not been seized by young Robert Gray, the Jeweller, and others, and hurried into the shop. I wanted to get at him, for I could easily have thrashed a dozen, one after the other, of such as this debauched creature.

This case was of so flagrant a nature that my friends insisted I should take him before the Criminal Circuit Court, about to sit in Glasgow; which I did.

Mr. Wm. Muir, one of the magistrates, a friend of mine, as was customary, dined the night before the opening of the Court with the other magistrates, sheriffs, &c. After the dinner he came straight to me, declaring himself quite shocked, although a strong Tory, at what took place, and told me among those present were the Hamiltons themselves, with a Judge who was a cousin, and other relations. Some one introduced the subject of the trial which was to come off before them at nine o'clock next morning. Lord Pitmilley said aloud that Hamilton had nothing to fear, for that they would fix Col. Wardell and reform me. Mr. Muir advised me to withdraw the suit and take it before a common jury. This was attempted, but these upright judges insisted that the case should proceed. I produced numerous and most respectable witnesses in proof of this gross assault and battery, and also the truth of the frauds which Hamilton had committed. But the Judges quoted Lord Helenbouro's doctrine, "The greater the truth, the greater the libel." They gave me a shilling damages, and expenses to pay. And this injustice was carried on from 10 to 15 years after, when the Reform became the ascendant and popular cause.

Notwithstanding all these drawbacks, and often meeting with losses from lending money to pretended friends, I became rich. In 1810 numerous and extensive failures took place all over the country, and particularly in Glasgow, by which I lost a great deal of money. But, being rich, it did not oblige me to narrow my business or make any sacrifices.

About this time there were some great Reform meetings, at which I was forced into the chair. It was generally known that I was in active correspondence with Major Cartwright, the Father of Reform, and with Sir Francis

Burdett, and some other eminent friends of the good cause. All this raised the bile and provoked the wrath of all the creatures of the Court.

Various schemes were hatched by which they hoped to run me down, such as trying to get all discounts or Bank accommodation stopped; but I was too strong for them. The sheriffs of Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire laid their wise heads together, and came to the bold determination of seizing my warehouse, counting house, dwelling house, &c., for the purpose of finding my political and treasonable correspondence. After breaking open all lock-fast places and making a thorough search without finding anything to suit their purpose, they were told by my clerks that I had gone into the country that morning with Mrs. Ferrie and a party of friends, to spend the day at Mr. James Elder's.

It was then determined by these wise men to seize my person also. A warrant was put into the hands of their bailiffs, and I was apprehended in the midst of this company of friends as if I had been a culprit of the blackest cast: I was carried to the City and ushered into the presence of my accusers; the two sheriffs and their deputies. I immediately demanded of them a copy of the warrant, affidavit or information upon which they had ventured to take this very violent step. I saw at once that this demand took them all aback. Sheriff Connel at once got up and in a most rude and passionate manner ordered me to be respectful or he would make out a warrant to put me in jail. I replied that he might do it at his peril, and that he had no right to act out of his own County, indeed that he had no right to be there except he was summoned as a witness. On this he broke out into a most furious passion, and said, he had a letter in his pocket which would condemn me. I smiled with contempt at him, and put him at defiance. The other Sheriffs saw that they had got themselves into a scrape, so they all retired into an adjoining room to consult. When they returned the head Sheriff of the City and County, Robert Hamilton, addressed me in a very polite and conciliatory manner, saying, that he had from the first been against this mode of conducting the case, and that he was sure that there was a mistake in the matter, but that they had been informed that I had for long been in active correspondence with very dangerous political characters, and that all they wanted was to peruse said correspondence, and that he hoped there was nothing seditious or treasonable in it, and if there was not, I could have no objections to satisfy them on the question. I said that, as they had not consulted my feelings in the very harsh steps which had been taken, I would show them nothing, and that I had never at any time corresponded with such characters as they had mentioned. At which Connel said, "Dare you deny, sir, that you have for long been corresponding with these firebrands of this country—Major Cartwright, Sir Francis Burdett, Samuel Brooks and others of that stamp?" I replied, I would not deny I had, and I considered it a high honour.

On this he rose and swore that he would again go to my dwelling house and break open every lock-fast place which they had not before examined. I

then addressed Sheriff Hamilton and requested him to allow me to accompany Connel and his attendants to see that none of our valuables were stolen. He said, "You have now perfect liberty to depart. I from the first thought you could not be guilty of anything criminal, and I wash my hands of any further steps in this disagreeable matter, and recommend my friend Sheriff Connel to do so."

But no, Connel would and did go, taking his aids with him. On arriving at my house I was much surprised to find seated in the kitchen and passage a number of officers and porters. In order to prevent the breaking open any more of the doors, I gave them the keys, but closely watched their proceedings and made them replace everything.

Connel then said, "We have searched your Counting-house and Warehouse all over to-day and have found nothing such as we want. You admitted that for long you corresponded with these vile men, and I demand that you show me the correspondence."

I replied that I would not so far gratify him, but would demand of him his authority for the steps he had taken.

He got furious, stamped his feet and threatened me.

I sneeringly imitated him. Foaming with rage, he asked me if I knew who I was speaking to. I retorted, did he know that he was in my house, and that he had, without legal authority, in a most wanton manner, seized my person and for hours held me in durance vile, and broken up the doors in both my house and place of business. I finished by declaring that but for its defeating the legal steps which I was determined to take, I would kick him out of my house. The officers, porters and my servants had a hearty laugh at the figure he cut, and the mob left my house declaring that from the first they were sure that the great hubbub would end in smoke.

The keys of store were immediately sent me with Mr. Sheriff Hamilton's best compliments.

I lost not a day in instituting steps to have the case brought before a jury.

The City rang with accusations against the Sheriffs and Connel in particular. They became seriously alarmed at the approaching trial, and set all their friends upon me to drop law measures. They offered ample letters of apology, which I was induced to accept. The public who had taken a warm interest in the case blamed me for compromising in this way.

The Cause of Reform was now ably advocated all over the Kingdom, and fast getting numbers from the opposite ranks. In short, it was now becoming fashionable to be a Reformer. How different from what it was when I first took up the Cause. So much was I looked up to by the people of Glasgow, that I was often cheered on the streets, and sometimes called the Sir Francis Burdett of Glasgow. This I really disliked.

The Magistrates had always been friendly toward me, and had often invited me to join the Town Council, but I refused, although I always aided

them in putting down riots and keeping the peace. They got me to take the Baton as head of the Gentlemen Special Constables.

About this time a very notorious regiment was stationed at Glasgow. A company of them at Greenock quarrelled with some of the inhabitants, and with their bayonets murdered a number of people. The guilty were hanged for this crime. Another company of them rose on the inhabitants of Perth, which ended in the same fatal manner. They were instantly all brought to head quarters. Very shortly after this, three of them went into a public house on Saltmarket Street, on a market day, where some country lads were, after market, treating their sweethearts. The soldiers became rude to the girls. They were warned to desist, but continued, when one of them was knocked down. They all turned out to the street to fight it out, man to man. The populace formed a ring and saw fair play. The country lads thrashed the soldiers well, when some other soldiers came up and wanted to attack the lads, but the people would not allow such foul play. At this the soldiers ran to their barracks, and the whole regiment turned out with bayonets (they had been prohibited from wearing them except on parade, owing to their former brutal conduct) to attack the people. The alarm was spread in Town that they were marching up the Gallow-gate with drawn bayonets to attack the citizens.

I ran to the police station, and the police turned out with simply their staffs of office. What were a few police with sticks to 700 or 800 men with sharp steel in their hands? The inhabitants came forth to their aid, however, and wherever the soldiers separated from the main body, they were knocked down, disarmed and dragged to the strong room. One of the police, near where I stood, was attacked by three of the soldiers. He put his back to one of the upright large bannons opposite the fontine, and defended himself most bravely. One of the soldiers stole round him and was ready to stab him from behind, when I darted forward and gave the soldier a blow on the head with a heavy stick, which I for long had carried for self-defence. He dropped down to all appearances dead. The other two left the policeman and fiercely attacked me. I struck one of them on the hand which made the bayonet fly many yards away, and he was instantly secured and dragged off by the heels. Having now only one to look to, I soon laid him low. By this time, the people had armed themselves with sticks, bricks, stones and other things, and were fast overpowering the soldiers. As I stood at the cross one of them quite close to me was struck with a piece of brick; he fell, gave a quiver and lay a corpse. The soldiers, seeing themselves completely overpowered, fled to their barracks. A great many of the people got bayonet wounds, but as far as I recollect, none of them were mortal. Several of the soldiers were killed. I was in a state of great anxiety as to the fate of the one I first knocked down. His skull was fractured and trepanned. It was often reported he was dead, but he did recover. Quite a formal and long legal investigation took place.

I got the thanks of the constituted authorities for the conspicuous part I acted on this occasion.

A copy of the whole investigation was sent up to the Government, and the regiment was disgraced, broken up and drafted into different battalions serving in sickly climates.

My business was equal now to £100,000 every year. I was worth £70,000 when the very bad times came on at the end of 1815. A number of my intimate acquaintances became involved in difficulties. They applied to me to become their securities for amounts. They made me believe that it was only a temporary embarrassment, and that they had abundance of means to pay far more than all they owed, and that I would run no risk of even losing a farthing by them. John Spence shewed me statements of his affairs, and made it appear that he was worth £90,000. He failed and I had nearly £10,000 to pay for him. Hutchison & Coulter, J. Wingate & Son, McFarquhar, Campbell & Co'y, and various others all failed and I had for them in all, to bear a loss of about £35,000. O'Reilly, Young & Co'y next came down in London. I lost by them upwards of £12,000. Goods fell in price at home and abroad so that I lost in this way at least £14,000, besides numerous smaller losses in the fair course of business. I did not at first think that these estates would have turned out so very badly, otherwise I question if my mind would have stood it. As it was, my vexation, I may say misery, was so great or acute when I looked at my dear wife and children, that my hair turned grey in a few weeks. My wife, in place of blaming me for silliness in allowing myself to be so extensively taken in, I may say robbed, of my wealth, actually doubled her kindness and attention. She assured me that she was not at all ambitious for great wealth, and if matters were to turn out so that I should have only £100 per annum, she would try to live within it. This soothed my mind and feelings, while it shamed me for my weakness.

I determined to double my diligence to wind up with the least loss possible. I wrote to India, South America, Jamaica, Canada and the Mediterranean ports where I had stocks of goods, to sell and remit as quickly as possible, so as to enable me to meet these losses. I realized all within my own reach at home, with which I paid off first all those who I knew could least afford to grant indulgence. What I otherwise really owed, was to a few great and wealthy firms, with whom I had very long dealt, and to them I asked for time. They cheerfully granted my request, but stated that they thought I was wrong in attempting to pay all, in the face of such tremendous losses, that I was naturally sanguine, and that things would wind up much worse than I expected, but that if I would call a meeting privately of all my creditors and offer 10 shillings per pound, they would all at once accept. I thanked them from the bottom of my heart, but felt quite sure of being able to pay every one 20 shillings and interest, and at all events I would do my best. I really all along had been much wealthier than the public had imagined, owing to the moderate style we lived in. I intimated that I was determined

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as soon as possible I would go to Jamaica to look after my property in the hands of O'Reilly, Hill, May & Co., as the two senior managing partners had died lately, Hill of a broken heart on account of the state of their affairs. Francis Ilsley, who had been lately raised from their clerk to partner, was evidently going to make a job of the business, at least as far as the consignees' property was concerned.

Shortly after this I received a card of invitation from my largest creditor to meet a few friends. When I went, to my surprise, I found assembled the whole of my principal creditors before alluded to. My host at once opened the business by telling me they had all determined, if possible, to prevent me from going to Jamaica, as they had a serious dread that, what with the state of my mind and the sickly climate, I would not live to come back to my wife and young family, or to them to perform my honourable intentions, and for these reasons they had executed in my favor a full and complete discharge on my granting them notes at 10 shillings per pound at six, twelve and eighteen months' date. He presented the whole to me for my acceptance. I was so overcome by such extreme kindness that it was long before I could speak. I shortly expressed what I truly felt, but refusing to accept their kind offer, I made only one request, that they would during my absence act as trustees for my estate, my clerk taking all the drudgery, and that, if I did not live to come back, they along with my nearest relatives would take some charge of my wife and family. That they agreed to do, and I had the happiness before I left for Jamaica, to pay them all more than the 10 shillings per pound.

While I was in Jamaica a good deal of sickness prevailed. A young man named Campbell from Paisley, and a young and very wealthy Spaniard from the Main, died of the yellow fever in the house where I lodged. I was seized with it. A Jew, Isaac Pacifico, who had been most kind to me from the day of my landing, came the instant he heard I was sick. He asked what doctor was attending me, what he had given, and being informed, he said that these newcomers all trilled with the disease until it got into the system so that no medicine could prevent the black vomit and death. He expressed happiness in finding it in so early a stage with me. He told me that during his first year in the Island, he had been seized with this fever, and an old inhabitant who was quite famous for curing all he took charge of, had taken him in charge and cured him, and that he was willing to treat me as he had been treated, if I would put myself in his hands, and had firmness to go through with the ordeal. I replied that if others had followed out the prescription, I could and would. Without going into all the particulars as to the treatment, the result was that I broke out into a profuse perspiration. He said the game was won, and gave me medicine to completely carry off the bile. I was kept in bed with a blanket over me, while he changed my flannel frequently. The violent headache subsided, also the burning heat of my skin, but I became so very weak that he had to lift me out and into bed. I at last fell into a sound

sleep, and when I awoke I was free of the fever. Although at first as weak as a child, I very soon gained my former strength.

I had from the day of my landing been trying to get an amicable settlement with Mr. Ilsley, but without effect. Becoming homesick I determined to make a bold effort to get the business settled. As I could not get any reply to my frequent letters, I got Mr. Pacifico and Mr. Burtwhistle to call on Ilsley with me so that they might be witnesses as to what passed between us. I spoke to him in a conciliatory manner, but he pretended he did not know how my account stood with the firm in London. I produced their letter to me acknowledging that I had paid the bills granted by them on the consignments made by me, also a letter direct to Ilsley directing him to give me up the goods on hand and to pay me for those sold, with a copy of a letter which they had written to the firm to the same effect. I then said I hoped he would act like a man of honour and do me justice as far as it was in his power. He replied that if I called his honour in question he would give me the satisfaction that one gentleman could demand of another. I ridiculed the idea of settling a debt in that way, while he owed me such a very large sum as about £14,000, we would not meet to fight on equal terms, but if he would pay me I would then meet him in that way, or give him a good thrashing with my fist, which I was well able to do. We could make nothing of him, and left him to his guilty conscience. My two friends told all their acquaintances how I had cornered him, and his proposal to try and shoot me for asking of him my own, was made a fine story of all over the City, and properly turned into ridicule.

I had to take him into Court, and got a warrant to seize my own and his property wherever I could find it; but he had everything made over to his mistress, although he had a wife and family in London whom I knew. At the time I was there he was building a perfect palace to live in, and had a fine new brig worth £5,000 to £6,000, and one of the best wharfs and stores in the place, drove his carriage and pair, and gave the finest entertainments. He paid everyone he owed in Kingston in full to keep in well with those he was determined to live among, but put me and those he owed in Britain at defiance. Strange as it may seem, he got those in good society to go to his feasts.

I closed up my business with two other houses to whom I had consigned, and left for London. I arrived there in June, 1818, and found the affairs of the firm nearly wound up. I with others who could get nothing at Jamaica, ranked for our full sums, but my portion came in all to only about £2,000.

By the time I returned to Glasgow, enough had been recovered to pay every pound I was bound for, but out of my £70,000 I had only what was worth about £9,000 or £10,000. My credit everywhere was as good as it was before my great loss, and my old friends offered to give me the most liberal credit and to support me in any way within their power. I was quite overcome by all the kindness of my friends and the public at large. Even with all my great wealth gone, I think this was the happiest period of my life, and I set seriously

to work again to try and make a third fortune. I commenced again the job printing, employing the needy calico printers to print my cloths. I had employed them around Glasgow for twenty years previous to this, and at Manchester since 1811. I sold part at home and exported the rest to Canada, the Mediterranean, Brazil, &c.

About this time old Major John Cartwright came to Glasgow while on a tour through the principal cities and towns of England and Scotland. He came for the purpose of stirring up the people to continue their public meetings for reform. While he stayed a considerable time about Glasgow, he and his manservant slept at a hotel, but he was mostly at my house. I may here mention, the different times I had been in London I received the greatest kindness from him and Sir Francis B. Lett. The Major's tour through the kingdom gave a fresh impulse to the good cause, and in both Houses of Parliament it was fast gaining ground. Even some of the Ministers of the Crown were compelled to admit that reform was necessary, and to a certain extent would be conceded, but not at that time as the minds of the populace had been overheated by the violent speeches of the Major and other demagogues all over the country.

About this time I detected a very gross fraud committed against me by a Mr. Richard Gillespie, a calico printer in Glasgow. His works were in the suburbs. It was of such a nature, that had it been followed out at law, he to a certainty would have been either transported or otherwise severely punished. The case got wind and made a great talk all over the City. I pitied the man and said nothing. He was foolish enough to put a letter in the newspaper denying the report and speaking boastfully as to getting those who had raised it severely punished. This I could not let quietly pass without comment, so I sent the original affidavits of a Mr. McIntosh, Mr. Galbraith and others who proved the fraud to the newspapers. When these appeared I fancy the poor man's mind had become deranged, for that forenoon while I was standing with some gentlemen in the Lintine news room he came behind my back and struck me a most violent blow on the crown of the head, which cut my hat through and wounded me severely. I had a stick in my hand, with which I could with one stroke have killed him on the spot, but I threw it away and gave him a blow with my knuckles which sent him on his back. A cry got up, "Well done, take the law in your own hands, it has been denied you in the Courts." The cheering seemed to further enrage him, for getting on his feet he made at me again. I evaded the blow, and gave him a duplicate of the first, on the other cheek, which put him quite beyond walking. He was carried into Mr. Bennett's office, and a doctor dressed his wounds, and sent him home in a carriage, and was not able to make his appearance in public for long. He fast sank so much in the public estimation, that nobody would deal with him. He went all wrong and became quite an outcast in society. I took this means of retaliation in several after cases of the kind. I had from early life been famous for boxing and walking. I fought often in schoolboy times, and never met one who could beat me. I had gained bets by my

walking twelve miles in two hours, seventy miles in one day, that is daylight, and thirty miles in six hours without stopping.

My business of job printing went on prosperously. To a firm at Dawsholm, Gy., by the name of Shortridge & Co'y, I for very many years paid from £16,000 to £25,000 annually. I began to find the consigning business to be more hazardous and less profitable than formerly, and my sons getting to manhood, I thought as an outlet to them, I would establish a house at Montreal, to which place I had been trading for twenty-eight years. When I let this be known, Mr. James Pinkerton and Mr. Hector Russell, a cousin of Mr. Wm. Cormack, who had been brought up to business in the house of H. Russell & Co. of Montreal, and who was then on a visit to his friends in Scotland, was strongly recommended by them as being in every respect fitted to take charge of such a business, and worthy of any confidence. This was in the beginning of 1824. Cormack was introduced to me, and I liked his manner and appearance, so we formed a co-partnership on the terms that I was to manage the business in Glasgow, under the form of Adam Ferrie & Co'y, and to hold two-thirds of it, and he to manage the business at Montreal, under the form of Ferrie, Cormack & Co'y, and to hold one-third of it. I sent him to England with letters of credit, in order to lay in, on the best terms, the goods in his scheme, of their manufactory, while I set to work to make up the Scotch goods; the whole forming a most complete and extensive assortment of price goods, hardware, groceries, stationery, &c. They were shipped in March; Mr. Cormack and my oldest son, Colin, sailing at the same time. The ship was the "Cherub," Captain Raside. She started 1st of April.

All went well with them until they got to the Banks of Newfoundland, when they encountered a violent hurricane which dismasted the vessel, making her a total wreck. The Captain said he never encountered such a gale, and that it was by the extreme exertions of the crew and passengers that they kept the vessel from sinking. His description of the contrast between the terror and uselessness of Cormack, and the cool courage displayed on that trying occasion by Colin, was very flattering to my feelings as a father. They took six weeks to go from the Banks to Montreal, when they might have made the distance in one.

A store had been taken for them in Mr. Torrance's buildings, St. Paul's St. They arrived on the 31st May, and found previous shipments snugly stored. As the vessels that sailed at the same time as they did, and others two weeks after, had arrived, very unpleasant fears and rumors prevailed as to them. By the lateness of their arrival, the first, and that is the best, of the Spring trade was lost. But still, Mr. Cormack wrote most sanguinely of their sales and prospects, and sent me a large order for the Fall goods, which were bought and sent by the early vessels. The whole of the shipments to them then amounted to about £35,000 Stg., and I naturally expected that large remittances would come to me by return of the Fall vessels, but very little actually came. Still I got very flattering accounts from Mr. Cormack, and

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extensive orders for every description of goods, to be sent out in the Spring of 1825, with promises of very large remittances by that time, as the long credits given on their early sales, would then be due.

In 1824, I had built for the trade, a very fine barque of about 300 tons register, called the "General Wolfe." She was fitted up in most superb style, with a ladies' and gentlemen's cabin, in the finest variegated mahogany. Her equal had never sailed from the Clyde. Her building was superintended by Captain Wm. Johnston who had long commanded one of the Liverpool traders belonging to a company of which I was a partner. By the advice of my oldest brother, James, (who had long been at sea, and lost his right arm when only eighteen years of age, defending a ship of my father's, of which he had command during the first American war) a system was adopted, then quite new, of boring a hole of several inches deep in every timber head, with an auger, and filling it with linseed oil, and of dosing the joinings of all the timbers well with whitelead and oil. This vessel was sold to James Ewing & Co'y, and has been since in the Jamaica trade. She has been repeatedly examined, and her timbers found quite fresh, owing, no doubt, to the care taken in building her.

She was dispatched from Greenock for Montreal the end of March, 1825, with a cargo for Ferrie, Cormack & Co'y. Considerable shipments were also made to the firm from Liverpool at the same time.

The ship returned the beginning of July with nearly 500 tons of dead weight on board, but with very small remittances for me.

My son's letters for some time past had been rather gloomy, hinting that he feared the business would not succeed under the management of Mr. Cormack, and recommending my coming out immediately to look after my own interests: I felt much disappointed and very uneasy ; but as Mr. Cormack still wrote in good spirits and continued to send me large orders, I wrote my son that I feared he viewed Mr. Cormack with jaundiced eyes. I, however, curtailed shipments. My son's reply to my letters, after this, told me plainly that Mr. Cormack was not attending to the business, but was constantly in a round of company and dissipation, and if I did not come out soon he trembled for the result. I wrote strongly to Mr. Cormack of the trifling remittances sent to me. He sent rather more, and a great order for goods.

I wrote my son to exert himself to the utmost to keep things right, and that I was coming out with the "General Wolfe" in the Spring, but not to mention it. The end of March, 1826, we sailed with a large cargo.

Mr. Cormack was evidently alarmed at my arrival. I found the stores filled with the very same kind of goods he had sent me very large and fresh orders for. The fact is, he knew nothing of what was on hand ; and had just copied some of his former orders. Every one of the merchants in Montreal bore testimony to the exertions made by Colin to make up for the misconduct of Mr. Cormack. I, with the help of my son, made out a statement of the affairs of the Company, and found them on this side very bad.

I proposed a dissolution of the partnership, and that if he would quietly agree to this, I would forgive him all the harm he had done me, and grant him a full discharge. But some of his blackguard and dissipated acquaintances advised him not to do it.

I found out plenty of his transactions so bad that I had him completely in my power. I made Mr. Walker, my lawyer, write him as to his having my orders, to take strong steps against him. He got alarmed and consulted Daniel Fisher and John Simpson, merchants, in Montreal. They heard his statements and told him he was completely in my power, and that he should instantly try and get an amicable settlement with me. When he told them the terms I had offered him they were astonished at its great liberality, and advised him to go and see if I would still consent to it. He got them to propose this to me.

The argument used by them was just what had at first urged me to make so great a sacrifice, namely, that by bad advice he might be induced to set to work and collect the immense outstanding debts and go to the United States, where he could laugh at me. I agreed to the dissolution, and it was instantly made out, signed and advertised.

I was anxious to get him away, and took and paid his passage for the Clyde. He was seized for some debts, I paid them and got him off to Quebec. He was not long away when other accounts came in, which I refused to pay.

I immediately discharged some of the useless and supernumerary hands, gave the management to my son, and set off to visit all our customers in the Upper Province. I went and returned all the way by land, and found the corduroy roads very bad. I took six weeks to accomplish the task, having gone as far west as London. I crossed many forests and by-paths where I needed a guide. The face of the country is very much changed since that time.

I found Mr. Cormack's credits had been very injudicious, none of the parties had money, and I took in payment whatever they had to offer in the shape of produce. And with all the diligence that I and my son could use, Cormack's sales were settled at a fearful loss. The greatest losses were in that part of the country from Toronto round the lake to Niagara. At this last place alone, £6,000 to £7,000 was lost, a large part of it from Mr. Cormack letting some of his cronies draw large sums on the firm without fee or reward. He had given fine dinners at all the towns on the route, and at Niagara, he gave a dinner to all the gentlemen of the town and neighborhood. They got drunk on the finest wines. A large number of them ordered horses, which they mounted in this state, and with their coats turned inside out, and otherwise disfigured, rode through the town in the light of a long Summer day. My informant said that he and the people generally, wondered who this Adam Ferrie could be, who allowed such folly and extravagance to go on.

We hurried home as large remittances as possible, but such was the pressure for money that Fall, that my friends had to sell off the "General

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Wolfe," and all my property at home. It took us two years to sell off the great accumulation of stock on hand, after I arrived in Glasgow.

It was the Fall of 1828, before I got all paid off so that I could prepare to carry the whole of my family out to permanently live in Canada, where I had, a year before, sent my second son, Adam, and Donald Murray, who had for long been a clerk in my employ.

I must not forget to mention that I had for long been a little acquainted with Sir Walter Scott.

He had a nephew, Wm. Scott, then about 18 years of age, who became acquainted with a number of very wild and dissipated young men of Edinburgh. He was becoming a sad annoyance to all his relatives. Sir Walter asked me, as a great favour, if I would take charge of him, and send him out to act as an assistant in our Stores in Montreal.

I agreed, and he came to Glasgow in March, 1828, and stayed at my house until the time the ship sailed. This at once brought on a more intimate correspondence with Sir Walter, and both he and his nephew were very grateful for the little I did for them. I still have a few of his letters. I gave letters to several gentlemen who expressed a strong wish to have his holograph.

The end of this year, the famous law suit called Harvey's Dyke Case came to a close, after having taken between six and seven years of litigation in the Courts in Scotland, and the House of Peers. I will here give a short account of its rise and progress:—

In 1821, the Estate of Westthom, bounded on the South by the River Clyde, and about two miles above the Green of Glasgow, or Rutherglan Bridge, came into the market for sale, and was purchased by a distiller and spirit dealer, by the name of Thos. Harvey, a low upstart, who, in his early years, used to drive into the City of Glasgow, a sour milk cart. He immediately began trying to stop passengers from using a road in said property, which led from the eastern suburbs of the City, through all the properties on the banks of the Clyde, until Boswell Park and Bridge, which were eight miles up, were reached, and which had been open and patent to the public for time immemorial. Indeed in old times, it was the principal road in that direction. It was a favorite resort and walk for the citizens, particularly those in the suburbs of Camlachie and Tollcross, which were in the immediate neighbourhood of said property. The people tore down the palings which Harvey erected to keep them from using the road. He then began to build small forts upon the top of the bank, which rose almost perpendicularly from the river to about 100 feet. He placed on the forts, two small cannon, and had the audacity to fire them, loaded with shot, over the heads of parties who would proceed to use the road, notwithstanding his violent threats. This occasioned a strong hatred against him, particularly amongst that desperate class of people, the colliers, who lived and wrought in the pits in that neighborhood. They, I do believe, would have murdered him, had they got him in a quiet place. So determined was he, that he next employed a multitude of masons and labourers,

who in an incredibly short time erected stone walls at least twelve feet high, and about three feet thick, from each fort down to the River, which is very deep right off the bank, at this place. Up the front of these walls, and all along the tops, he put *cheval-de-frise* of the most formidable kind. On the works being finished, he had salutes fired and great goings on, as if now he was able to put the people at defiance. But this raised their wrath to such a pitch, that secret committees were formed for the purpose of instructing the male inhabitants to meet at a certain point, at a given time, with all the requisites necessary to open a road through these formidable dykes. Some thousands of them, all armed in one way or other, met accordingly, and marched, headed by the colliers with their picks, to the walls. To work they went, and in a very short time the walls were undermined, kegs of gunpowder placed, trains laid and fired, and the walls levelled to the earth.

At this hearty cheers were given.

The crowd had dispersed ere the Sheriff, at the head of a regiment of soldiers, made his appearance at the scene of action. He succeeded in capturing about a dozen, whether they had been partisans I cannot say, and sent them to gaol for six months. Mostly all had wives and families, who very soon were reduced to a state of starvation. I was, as usual, waited upon to see if anything could be done to relieve their distresses. I drew out a petition, heading it with a decent sum. In a few days, I got from the genteel part of the citizens, upwards of a hundred pounds. I went out to where these families lived, and gave each of them a sum sufficient to keep them for a week. I called on a few of the respectable neighbors, formed a committee which took in hand to raise as much as possible, and to give each family the same sum weekly, that I had given them then. They raised a considerable sum, which when expended, they got the requisite amount weekly from me. All became expended, which I had, before the men were liberated, and there was great difficulty in raising the additional sum. Meetings were held in about twenty or thirty different places in the City and suburbs, for the purpose of concocting some plan for keeping the road open. A member from each of the committees waited on me, to know if I would not aid them in taking steps to accomplish this end, for Harvey had commenced preparations to repair the breaches. I spoke severely against the very illegal way the opening of the road had been conducted, and also against the determination expressed, of revenging the wrong done to the public. I said that, if they would pledge themselves for their different Constituencies not to injure either Harvey's person or property, I would take instant legal steps to keep the road open and protect the rights of the public.

This they did. I called a public meeting on the subject, which was most numerous and respectably attended. I stated all that had passed, and what had already been done, and that I fondly hoped that the public generally would countenance and support me in my proposed measures to take legal action, and that I had not a doubt of succeeding, quoting a similar case which had been tried in our Court and gained, when an attempt was made to shut up the river road

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beneath the City. The meeting unanimously gave me every encouragement, and promised to see me through the struggle. I begged of them to name a committee to aid and advise me. They refused to trammel me with a committee, adding, "Too many cooks often spoil the broth." But I begged to name a committee, and to include in it some of the persons living in the neighbourhood of the dykes, who had a more immediate interest in the keeping this road open, and, in their names and my own, I would prosecute, for if in my own name alone, my opponent might plead that I had no immediate interest in the plea. The meeting saw the force of my reasoning and agreed. A committee of six was named, I to be chairman, having the casting vote. I believe a more zealous or harmonious body of men never existed, than this committee, which was six years in existence. A subscription was taken up at the meeting, and a sum got which I thought sufficient to put the case through the City Courts. I entered a plea and craved an interdict against the dykes being rebuilt till the case was decided. This was granted and served on Harvey just in time to prevent the road being again closed up. My exertions and, I may say, success in relieving the distress of the poor families, and getting the road kept open, added much to my popularity. It went so far as to be annoying to me, and it created jealousy in some little minds. The case was pushed through the local Courts. Our proof was so strong and clear, that we got judgment with all expenses.

Harvey swore that he would spend thousands of pounds to gain his point. He appealed, and carried the case to the Court of Session at Edinburgh.

I saw that the expenses were going to be very great, so I wrote to the citizens generally, setting forth the consequences, if we allowed Harvey to gain the victory by his stubbornness and length of purse, which would be the closing up of all the small roads and pleasant walks with which the city and suburbs were surrounded. I got this letter printed and distributed broadcast with an N. B. at the bottom intimating that I would once a week, viz., the principal market day, stand at the Cross with a strong mahogany box which I had made in purpose, with a slit in its lid for the money which I was certain would be poured into it—from the widow her mite, from the wealthy man his portion. The first day we got nearly £50; and such was the weight of the box that it took four men to carry it into James Duncan's shop close by. The Committee, including the said James Duncan, was in attendance to open the box and count the money.

Nearly half the amount was in copper. We opened an account in one of the Banks, where our collections were regularly deposited and a regular set of accounts were kept showing every receipt and disbursement.

We adopted other ways of raising money for the cause.

A man who had a panorama in the City got into difficulties and put it up for auction. We purchased it at a very moderate sum and leased the hall where it was, and opened it every night for two hours at half the former price. All kinds of people came, and the first week we cleared the cost.

The next was the week of the Glasgow Fair, and of the multitudes who attended, many came to see the panorama. After all expenses, we cleared £47. The original proprietor kept hanging around, so we sold it to him for what we paid for it.

The musical amateurs of the City offered their services gratis for weekly concerts of a vocal and instrumental character. We gratefully accepted their offer, hired the Traders' Hall, and had several concerts. The expenses were heavy, as we gave the performers a treat each night, but we succeeded in clearing a considerable sum.

By continuing to place the box before the public for a number of weeks, we accumulated from £300 to £400. We thought we had sufficient in the meantime, and deferred trespassing any further on the public generosity.

At a retaining fee, £50 each, we feed three of the first Counsels at the Scottish bar. The expenses became very heavy. We afterwards got two very able men at 25 guineas each.

The case had several hearings, when the Lord Ordinary ordered a new proof.

I had for months been traversing that part in the neighbourhood of the dykes, along with a zealous friend—the poet, Alex'r Rodgers, in the employ of the great works of H. Montieth & Co'y at Dalmarnock—for the purpose of finding witnesses. He knew every old person around, and was a universal favourite, and the cause owed him a heavy debt of gratitude for the work he did. Messrs. Montieth & Co'y both contributed to our fund, and gave Alex'r Rodgers full liberty to go with me, although they had more reason to wish the road closed, as their works were close to where the road went. Their head manager, George Rodgers, was one of our commtttee.

At the appointed time, we took to Edinburgh 42 witnesses, some of them from 70 to 90 years old, with all their faculties, and who from their childhood had lived in the immediate neighbourhood of the road, and all swore to its existence as long as they could remember. Harvey had about 70 witnesses, some of them, at all events, had been bribed to tell lies, for on their being cross-questioned they contradicted themselves and broke down completely.

The Judge was very severe in his remarks as to the false swearing of Harvey's principal witnesses. In a long and able speech he recapitulated the substance of both parties' evidence, declaring the whole of ours to have been simple, clear and straightforward, while he characterized theirs as the opposite.

He finished by confirming the findings of the inferior court.

Harvey at once carried the case to the Judges of the Outer House. Hearing after hearing was given him, and decisions were always in our favour with all expenses.

When they would receive no more of his reclaiming petitions, he carried it before the Judges of the Inner House. Here again the same thing was repeated, and every quibble, trick and legal manœuvre tried without effect, and a final judgment was given with all expenses.

As a dying effort he carried the case before the Admiralty Court, alleging that as the Clyde had long been a navigable river, the case by rights should have been, in the first place, brought before this Court. Much legal ability was displayed by Harvey's able counsel on this and other points; but it was no go, and we again got a final decision with all expenses.

Harvey in due time gave us notice of appeal to the House of Peers.

Our whole funds had been for long expended. I, in the hope that Harvey would at this point stop, had been advancing out of my own funds money to pay that which could not be staved off. I was now compelled to set going another subscription paper among the merchants, bankers and citizens who had originally promised to see me through, and a considerable sum was raised: I again appealed to the public generally, and weekly for a long time took my station at the Cross of Glasgow with the *famous box, which is still in my possession, and highly valued.*

By these and other means we were enabled to collect enough to remit sufficient to fee a first-rate Counsel in London and pay other necessary expenses, all of which were exorbitantly high. Harvey now got dispirited about the case, as his hopes of overcoming us by heavy expenses were at an end. His expenses must have been double what ours were, for he had to pay a great price for everything done, while I did everything out of court myself or at my own cost, such as collecting the proofs. I was fifteen times to Edinburgh attending the different consultations and hearings in courts, and twice to London at the pleading before the Lord Chancellor, for which I never charged the Cause a penny. I am sure, besides the great time I expended during the six years the case lasted, I expended on it a hundred pounds.

When the case was brought before the House of Lords, it took Lord Eldon, the Chancellor, some hours to go over it from the commencement, and I will never forget my anxiety during that time. He wound up by saying, their Lordships and all who heard him might be surprised at his having taken so long as two months to look over the very voluminous papers in this case, and consult all the high authorities on the subject, and all this work about a paltry by-road; but he had to assure them, that it was the most important case ever before him since he sat on the Woolsack. Continuing he said, "Our decision to-day fixes the law as to the rights of the public, all over England, Ireland and Scotland, for all time, as to the prescriptive rights to roads, or, as they term it in Scotland, and in this individual plea, the law of use and wont. The law to give full right to a road or foot-path through any property belonging to anyone—peer, prince or even the King himself, only requires proof that the privilege of using it, however at first conceded or acquired, lasted for *forty years*, and all the powers in the country cannot legally take it away. Now, my Lords, the parties raising claim to the right to the free use of this road through the Estate of Westthom on the banks of the Clyde, have clearly proved that this road has been patent to the public, not only for forty, but for eighty years. And from what has come out in the proof, it is probable that

this, in early times, was the principal road east of what is now the great City of Glasgow. I, therefore, cannot see a reason why we should not confirm the uniform decisions of all the Courts below, in favour of the respondents, with all expenses."

There was a cheer in the galleries, which his Lordship rebuked, then turning to the House, he begged if there were any dissentients, they would state their reasons. There were none, and we got a unanimous decision.

Till the pleading was ended, I did not like to renew my old acquaintance with Mr. Brougham, whom I knew when he lived in Edinburgh, as he was the leading counsel for Harvey. When all was over, I went up to him, and without any introduction he held out his hand and named me. In the course of our conversation, I remarked that in his speeches in this case, he had not displayed his usual eloquence and fire. He replied, "No wonder, from the very first I considered it a bad cause in every respect." He then told me they were waiting for him to speak in a most important case in the Court below. I followed him, and heard him in his very best style. When he got warmed up to his argument, every muscle in his face moved, and the sarcastic irony which he poured forth on that occasion, far surpassed anything of the kind I ever heard.

When I returned to Glasgow, we set to work and made out our account of expenses, omitting nothing. In all, it amounted to more than £2,000. Harvey's must have been £3,000, for he was fleeced and cheated by all hands. Our surprise and mortification was great when he publicly stopped payment, and declared himself a bankrupt. He called a meeting of his creditors, and submitted a statement of his affairs. By this it appeared that both the Estate of Westthom and his immense distillery at Pt. Dundas were mortgaged for nearly as much as they would net. It was evident little could be got out of the whole estate if put into the hands of trustees, although his books showed 13 to 14 shillings per pound. He was asked to make an offer of composition. He wanted to make a job of it, but after much higgling, they screwed him up to, I think, 6/8 per pound. The creditors generally agreed to accept this, but we being a committee acting for the public, could not. I called a public meeting to lay everything before them, and try to bring the matter to a close. Shortly, I gave a statement of what we had raised, paid, and what was still to pay, and the amount of our claim against Harvey, and that I had looked forward to this sum being vested in the hands of trustees. This proposal gave satisfaction. I then stated, I had called them thus early together, for the purpose of consulting them as to whether we should accept the offer of composition. Many cried out "no," for he had used the public infamously. The greater number was for leaving it to the committee. This we declined. Some of the leading men came forward, and coolly asked me what I would do if I were the individual creditor. I replied that nobody had more cause to dislike the man than I, but as this was a mere matter of money, and as I had never refused to accept a reasonable offer, I would not make this the exception. The cry then

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was, "Take his offer." I said we would do so, and as our case was a peculiarly galling one, and as we could place no confidence in the man, or his notes at three, six and nine months' date, we would demand cash down. The cry then was for the original committee to continue to act, at least, for the first year. I reminded them that I was to leave them, with my family, for Canada in a few months, but that I would act till then, by which time the whole affair connected with the case, would be closed. The members of the committee then came forward to thank the citizens for the compliments paid us. They stated, that, by the the time all the balances were paid, along with the very heavy personal expenses which I had been at from first to last, they feared very little would be left for the proposed fund. The public had not been aware that I had paid out of my own funds, my whole travelling and all my other personal expenses. The universal cry now was, to pay Mr. Ferrie at all events. I stepped forward and said, had the whole £2,000 due us been recovered, I might have taken payment, but as it was, I would not receive one farthing, but that I was more than repaid by their hearty thanks, and the great kindness always displayed toward me by the people of Glasgow and its neighbourhood. I said, this fund must be established as the only sure means of preventing those of aristocratic principles, from attempting to rob the people of their just rights. I ended by saying, to all human probability, it would be the last time I would meet them, and that I had to return them my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the uniform kindness and support I had received from the people generally, ever since I settled among them.

In May, 1829, just before I was to sail for Canada, to my great surprise, compliments were paid me by dinners, and a variety of pieces of plate were presented to me from various bodies of the citizens. And not the least gratifying part of all this was, that my political opponents were the most conspicuous in these testimonies of respect. But I must not go into particulars, else it may be alleged that silly vanity is at the bottom of this narration.

I and my wife and family sailed in a brig, the "Albion," of Greenock, along with nine other cabin passengers. I laid in a large stock of everything I thought would tend to the comfort of ourselves, as I often found on board these vessels a great lack of many things. It turned out as I feared, for the captain had laid in nothing nice. As there were three other lady passengers, I could not do otherwise than give them a share of our good things, as long as they lasted.

I had a cask of bottled rum, which was part of a puncheon of middle runnings, which was made up for me in Jamaica as far back as 1799. I laid in several other stocks of this article from time to time, but kept a part of this as a kind of curiosity, or *bon bush*. I was offered 5 shillings per bottle for it before I left Glasgow. I gave a half-dozen each to a few particular cronies, and packed the five dozen remaining, expecting a treat on great occasions. The cask was particularly marked to be taken great care of, and to be kept with other valuables. It had caught the eye of the Captain, who was a drunken

fellow, and he had opened it early on the passage, and had been helping himself to it all the voyage out. When we got into the St. Lawrence, I went to examine the order our things were in, and found the cask open, and all the bottles, with the exception of a few, gone. There was nothing on board the vessel but the common rum of the crew, and the captain was constantly drunk, but it was with my rum, as he, I found out, had been in the habit of taking a bottle every night. I made a good deal of noise about the theft, and let him know I was well aware of how it was all gone. In our rank of life, with so large a family, as a matter of course we had a great many packages, clothes, furniture, &c. In order to be revenged on me, the base villain went to the Collector of Customs, and made oath that he knew I had concealed amongst my luggage, a large number of smuggled articles. My things were put under seizure and everything tossed and tumbled about, but nothing was found. The Collector sent for me, and excused himself, saying, from the nature of the accusation, had he not taken the steps he did, it might have cost him his situation. He advised me to prosecute the Captain. I contented myself with writing a simple statement of his conduct, which was certified by two of the passengers and the Collector, and sent to the owners of the brig at Greenock. He was dismissed from the vessel and so disgraced, that he was compelled to leave the Clyde forever.

My sons, Colin and Adam, proposed settling at Hamilton, and opening a general store on an extensive scale, which they alleged would serve several good purposes, such as doing away with the necessity of my giving such very general credits over the Upper Province, and that they being there, would be at hand to look after my interests. I was to continue my business at Montreal, under the name of Adam Ferrie & Co'y, of which I was the sole company, and to supply their stores with everything; to be a partner holding half of the concern, which was to be carried on under the name of Colin Ferrie & Co'y. They took stores which were soon filled, and the business was going on well. In 1830, the firm bought a large piece of ground in the very centre of the then "small place," and had a big store built thereon. We did well in it. Nothing would satisfy them, but that we should have a number of country stores to be supplied from the depot at Hamilton.

We purchased ground six miles above Galt, close to the Grand River, and on the road leading to Guelph and Lake Huron, and built houses for trade and storage. Adam was to have the management of this establishment under the name of Adam Ferrie Junr. & Co'y. This business did well. I may here observe, this is now the Town of Preston. This shows what can be done in a young country by spirited individuals.

They also bought a new brick store and dwelling in the Town of Brantford, filled it with goods of every kind, and gave the management of the establishment to a Mr. James Muirhead.

Another store was started at the Village of Nelson, and the management given to Mr. L. Cooper, under the name of Ferrie, Cooper & Co'y.

Still another store was started at Dundas.

The merchants of Montreal and other places, seeing us getting on so well, flocked to this mine of wealth, Hamilton, and set up in opposition here and in all the other places. In a few years we began to find the truth of the old adage, "Too many irons in the fire, some will cool." The credits given by the managers, I and my sons had appointed, were too liberal, and brought on many bad debts, hence we were glad to wind up at a loss.

Adam, about 1834, bought on account of the Company a farm of 300 acres, 100 of which were cleared, a good dwelling house, large barns, and an old mill on a never-failing stream, which ran through the centre of the property. He had from his boyhood a mechanical turn, and he was anxious to erect new mills on the old site. The great difficulty was to erect a dam across the stream from bank to bank, for he determined to make it an overshot power, and it required a good height to give a racecourse to serve this purpose. The front of the dam was built of hewn stone, with a wide cart-road behind it, and the embankment to slope to the bottom of what was to form the lake or reservoir at an angle of 45 degrees. The width of this immense mound was 400 feet. The expense of building and filling it in was enormous. When it was finished the water was let in and it formed a lake a quarter of a mile long. Not a leak appearing, it was thought safe to proceed with the building of the mills for flour, barley and oatmeal, and saw mill and distillery. These were all built in hewn rubble work, and such was the expense, together with the necessary dwelling house and cooperage, that the people around that neighborhood were significantly shaking their heads and passing their remarks, wondering whoever our principal creditors would be, as nobody who had money to pay would throw it away on such extravagances. The millers around, with their shabby wooden mills, were particularly busy with their remarks, and even went so far as to fix the date when the great crash was to take place. This was even thought more probable when it was known that Colin had built a house at Hamilton on large grounds which in all, at least, cost £6,000 to £7,000. Repeatedly the appointed time for our failure passed over, and still all were paid every Saturday, and the prognostications were listened to no longer; till some knowing person at Preston let out the real secret, viz., "A London Bank had advanced the money for a mortgage on all our real estate." This was a great relief to all the former guessers, as the loss when the final winding up came would fall on those far away, who could bear it.

Our business went on tolerably well till the Fall of 1841, when the Messrs. Strang failed, for whom I had become security and helped to the amount of £8,000 to £9,000.

Next came down Messrs. Hackett & Dickinson, forwarders, whom I had been a principal means in setting up and had throughout supported. I was taken in by them to the extent of £4,000.

I was basely taken in for £1,000 by Chas. Lamontaign, in getting, through Thos. Judah, a false set of my notes for the House of Industry, which case

made a considerable noise in the Courts of Law here, and was universally allowed to be one of the basest swindles on record.

The year 1842 turned out a most disastrous one for the trade of Canada. A great number of failures took place here and all over the country, by which I was deeply taken in, to a great extent by my helping others.

This year I shipped largely to Britain in flour, pork, beef and butter, the net loss on which was from £6,000 to £7,000.

The losses united brought me into great difficulties. I realized all at my command, at a great sacrifice, to pay off all these losses.

Colin Ferrie & Co'y owed me on account £65,000. Only their drafts on me for a considerable amount were on the circle. To keep their own credit good they retired this paper at a fearful sacrifice. Such was the panic and scarcity of money at that time that little more than half price could be got in cash for property of any kind.

Colin Ferrie & Co'y, by great exertions and selling off their large stocks on hand at Hamilton, enabled me to pay off every just debt which I owed, but a few of the swindlers I resisted. Colin settled at 10 shillings per pound.

Had I kept clear of the scrapes here recorded, or gone out of business three years before, I might have retired with a fortune of between £60,000 and £70,000. I have no hesitation in saying had I since 1792, when I went into business, minded my own interests and helped nobody, I would have been the richest inhabitant in Canada.

I forgot to mention in the proper place, that in 1840, several years after the dam and mills at Dover had been finished and in operation, the water in the reservoir had worked into a bed of quicksand on the south side of the dam, carrying it away. When the men were going to breakfast they discovered a little water oozing out of the bank beneath the dam, like a very small spring; and in less than half an hour it burst out with such force as to level all that side of the dam and carry away in its course our fine stone built distillery, houses, trees and everything. Ten minutes completely emptied the lake which it took seventy hours to fill with the large stream running into it. The ice on the Grand River, just below the works, although about 20 inches thick, was broken up from bank to bank, and carried down stream about a mile, where it was piled up to an incredible height, along with the roofs and woodwork of the buildings.

In order to prevent the mills being kept idle for six to eight months while the repairs were going on, a temporary dam was made up the glen, and a water-race dug along the bank of sufficient height to feed the mill-race.

To make sure the like should never happen again, my son dug low down from bank to bank, and drove two rows of large wooden piles into the ground at six feet apart, each log tongued in the same manner as our wharfs are, and puddled.

So strong was this new work that judges thought it might have resisted the prodigious body of water without the breastwall and mound, which was

about thirty feet thick. As all the woodwork is deep under the water, and free from the atmosphere, it will last for ages, and the puddling can never decay. The expense of this work was very great, independent of the rearing of the new distillery and other buildings.

It may well be said, "Losses never come singly." It is to be hoped our run of losses and bad luck is now over. We have still left a great amount of property, but our capital has been swept away. Thank God, we have preserved our good characters for honor and honesty.

When I came to Canada I almost determined not to have anything to do with politics. I have to some extent, but not an active part.

When I arrived in Montreal, a new Board of Trade was appointed, and I was one of them. I was re-elected every year until 1847, when I retired owing to my having so many other public duties. I was chairman for seven or eight years.

About the year 1834, the discontent of the French Canadian population began to display itself in rather a public and alarming manner. The British in Montreal began to talk of the necessity of our leaguering together by organizing into societies. A number of Scotchmen held meetings and came to the determination of forming a national society. It was to be called "The Saint Andrew's Society."

The idea became very popular, and a meeting was called, at which a draft of rules and regulations were submitted.

It was determined as our Patron Saint's day, the 30th of November, was at hand, we should celebrate with a dinner to be held in the Albion Hotel.

I was chosen President, and as such filled the chair on that joyful occasion, when about 120 sat down to the feast. The whole went off in the most agreeable manner, only some forgot that champagne was not as weak as water, and got tipsy far too early. There was a profusion of first-rate madeira and port provided, with a bottle of champagne for each person, yet the wine ran out. I, anticipating this, sent two dozen from my own cellar, and when the want was announced I ordered my servant-man to produce it. A great cheer got up. In time this also was finished. We kept it up with wine till about two o'clock, when the company began to thin out fast. A few choice spirits with hard heads drew near the chair. We ordered in tumblers, fine Highland whiskey and boiling water. We had three tumblers each ere we parted at five o'clock. I never left the chair from the time I took it at six till then, when I danced the Highland fling with the few who saw it out.

I was at the annual meetings as first vice-president for six or seven years thereafter, but I never saw one of them go off as well as the first. A number of red-hot Tories, who became directors, were constantly by some means or other, introducing politics, notwithstanding the society was established on purely charitable principles. I reminded them of this, and tried to keep them in check, but I saw nothing I could do or say would avail, and I quietly with-

drew, and have never gone near one of their meetings since, but have yearly paid my contributions.

I think it was in the year 1834, that the inhabitants in Montreal of British origin, formed themselves into a body under the designation of the Constitutional Society. I was elected Vice-President. We had a hall secured for holding our meetings in, and many printed documents distributed, setting forth the cause and necessity for our organization, and calling on every loyal subject of whatever origin, to join us. The only difficulty in our way was the keeping of the furiously loyal within moderate bounds as to their hatred of the French Canadians, for they were so prejudiced as to assert that "they were all traitors in their hearts, whatever they might pretend." These opinions, I uniformly combatted and condemned, and argued that it was both unjust and impolitic to sport such sentiments. Even at our public meetings and on the hustings, I fearlessly expressed these sentiments, and recommended conciliatory conduct toward the French. I called on my countrymen to reflect what their feelings would be, if placed in the same position as the French Canadians. Would it not be that of jealousy? It was our duty in every respect to try and allay these feelings, and by kindness, try and lead them to amalgamate with us. I really believe that some of these high-flown divine-right-of-Kings men, set me down as French in heart, because I pitied their prejudices.

But when the very wicked and uncalled for rebellion broke out in 1837, who acted the best part? I flew to arms instantly, got a company of young Scotchmen formed, and drilled them at my own expense, until corps were regularly organized by Government. I was unanimously chosen the first captain of the regiment, and acted in that capacity while it was in existence.

From the time I landed in Montreal I was occasionally meeting the different Governors of the Colony, as a member of the various deputations appointed from time to time, to present petitions or addresses.

During the time of the rebellion of 1837 and 1838, I had a source of correct information as to what was going on in the United States among the rebels and Yankee sympathisers, through the medium of two of our former clerks who had gone to settle there. One, who was at Buffalo, was very able, and particularly minute in his descriptions. As the letters might be opened by the American authorities, we agreed to correspond under anonymous signatures and addresses. I sent all information, after reading it to a number of gentlemen in the City, to the Governor, and it was of vital importance to the Government.

The Governor, Sir John Colborne, sent for me to inquire as to the knowledge I had of the writers, as to their trustworthiness, &c. I assured him and his Secretary of their respectability and the confidence I had in them. I was warmly thanked by both. I cannot help here remarking, that while I can suppose that Sir John may have been a very good soldier, as I am convinced he was a very well meaning man, yet he appeared to me to be a man of very inferior ability. It might be that he was then bordering on dotage. I will

give you an instance : I had sent him a letter from my friend at Buffalo, in which he gave some rather alarming information, as to the general feeling of the people in that quarter, and that a great number of Yankees and fugitive rebels were actually under arms. At the time this letter came, the affairs at home also wore a very gloomy aspect.

I received a card requesting that I would immediately wait on the Governor. I did so, and was ushered into his own room, where I found him alone evidently in a state of great excitement. He expressed thanks for , having come so early, and then commenced a long discourse on the fearful state of the Country, and the very trying situation he was placed in, and having by the very rapid manner in which he had delivered this long harangue, completely exhausted himself, he said, "Mr. Ferrie, I think this is all I have to say to you." I made my bow and retired, wondering why he sent for me.

When he was going away, a set of silly puppies calling themselves the Doric Club, chose to issue a mandate that all the inhabitants of Montreal, should on a certain night, illuminate their houses, under the penalty of their high displeasure. A great majority of the inhabitants thought this compliment to Sir John, quite uncalled for, and the order as proceeding from a very improper source, decided they would not obey. When the night came, the Dorics traversed the streets calling on the people to illuminate or they would smash their windows, and they put their threat into execution, which terrified the people to comply. I and a few others would not be coerced to do this. Some of my windows and green blinds were broken, but I held out. They collected a lot of material before my door and made a great bonfire. I took no notice of all this, which increased their wrath to such a pitch that, that night, they tried in various ways to burn my house down. Our Tory newspapers could not be got to take any notice of their gross outrages.

I had nothing very particular to do with any of the Governors after this, till the Earl of Durham came here. When I was introduced to him, he repeated my name, and seeming to think for a while, he asked me if I was the Adam Ferrie of Glasgow, who took such a prominent part in the cause of reform from the commencement of the century until it was carried in Parliament. When I told him I was, he said he was then very young, but the accounts given in some of the newspapers of the persecutions which I sustained in consequence of my politics, made a strong impression on his young mind, the more so because he thought I was right. I then informed him that I had travelled all the way to Durham to attend the great Reform meeting there, when he made his maiden speech, which was heard with such great applause, and made him ever after looked up to as one of our great leaders. I afterwards had a private interview with him, when he got me to give, in confidence, my opinion of various public individuals. At his request, I made out a very long report, which he very kindly acknowledged. I was very much with his Chief Secretary, Charles Buller. Before the Governor left for Britain, he sent for me, and said he wished to thank me personally for the services I had

rendered him, adding that when he went home, he was going to send me a mandamus for the Legislative Council. I thanked him, but declined the honor, giving him my reasons for so doing. He then said if there was anything else within his gift that would be acceptable to me, he begged that I would name it. I replied I was more than repaid by his kindness, and that I neither wished for, nor would I take, any other return. This proved to me, although he was a very proud man, he was possessed of a warm and grateful heart.

The people generally in Montreal had for a long time been complaining of the very high price which both bread and firewood were kept at by a combination of those in these trades. I had often spoken to the leaders of the unreasonable rates which they charged, and threatened to start an opposition in both lines for the benefit of the poor. In 1837, the thing was carried so far, that I set seriously to work and organized a joint-stock company under the name of "The Montreal Public Bakery." We sold pure and excellent bread at from 2d. to 3d. below what the bakers had charged. They held meetings, and came to the determination to sell our company down, at a copper lower per quarter loaf. We had managers to pay, and various drawbacks to contend with, and by our rules could not sell lower than cost. The public, who made such an outcry against the bakers, no sooner heard of their selling at a trifle lower, than they left us.

The woodyard which I started, had the effect of reducing the price of this important necessity very much, also. But I could only sell it to the really poor, for to lay up stock sufficient to supply the city, would have taken a capital of many thousands of pounds. I could not attend to the selling of the wood, and was cheated by those in charge. This establishment was entirely on my own account. The House of Industry came forward, and loaned me £1000 to carry it on, for which I granted them my note with security for the repayment at the end of two years. A circumstance took place as to this note, which is worth narrating, as involving a case of as gross villainy as I have ever heard of. I gave the said note by the desire of the Board of Management, to, and in the name of, Mr. Charles La Montaigne, as treasurer and secretary to the Institution. He had for a long time been a man of wealth, and very much respected, but about this time, 1840, he got inveigled with a band of gamblers, who swindled him to such an extent, that, in a fit of desperation, he paid away my note to one of the gang. This man who got the note, employed a lawyer by the name of Thos. Judah to get me to give the like amount in a negotiable shape, as it was not negotiable, being in the form of a loan from the Institution. Judah came to me and stated that the Institution was requiring a few hundred pounds, and that they sent him to request that I would give them two notes for £500, payable at same date as the one for £1,000. I replied that if I got up the said note duly indorsed, I would have no objection to comply with the request.

He produced the note duly endorsed, and sat down in my office and made out two for £500 each, payable to my own order, which I put my name to;

entered them in my bill book, numbered them, and exchanged the paper, took my ledger and credited the note for the £1,000 and debited the two for £500. All this was done in his presence, and he was behaving as coolly as if he had been transacting a piece of ordinary and legitimate business. As the Board had intimated to me, they might require some such change, I had not the least idea anything was wrong. Some weeks after this I was requested to meet the Wardens of the House at Dr. Holms'.

I went, and to my astonishment, learnt all.

Some of them pretended to blame me very much, but I retorted, their own Secretary-Treasurer was alone to blame, along with the villain, Alexis Purnet, he paid it to; and the no less guilty Judah. I showed them at once my bill book and ledger, which proved that all I got by the transaction was the trouble and vexation: They succeeded in coaxing me to resist payment of the two notes when they fell due, because I foolishly trusted them to bear me out in case of being foiled. The notes had gone into the hands of third and fourth parties. I was cast with very large expenses. What was my surprise at having new actions-at-law raised against me by these very wardens, to pay them also.

Their case is still pending.

I have proved they knew of the swindle weeks before they let me know, during which time they were trying to get a settlement quietly through the other parties.

I have also proved that one of their own body, Olivia Berthelet, knew of the whole transaction from Judah, before the time Judah called on me to get the note exchanged.

This case was in the newspapers, and made quite a noise.

In 1839, the Honorable C. P. Thompson, afterwards Lord Sydenham, arrived in Montreal as Governor General of the British North American Colonies.

To my great surprise, I received on the day of his arrival, a card from his Chief Secretary, requesting my attendance on His Excellency at ten o'clock next forenoon. When I received this summons, I thought there must have been some mistake. I went a little before the time, and was received by Major Campbell, who I had previously been acquainted with. I expressed to him my doubts, but he said he had orders to show me up the instant I arrived, and that we were not to be disturbed till one o'clock.

When I was ushered in, His Excellency took me by the hand and thanked me for being so sharp on time. Being seated, he said he hoped I would be able to give him my company till one o'clock, as he had a number of questions to ask me, and begged that I would in my usual frank way answer them. I replied, it was not in my nature to answer otherwise.

He then opened a memorandum book, on the top of the first page my name, and under it questions, with the opposite page blank for answers.

He commenced by reading question number one, and wrote down the answer as I gave it. In this way he went throughout the whole, which occupied till nearly one o'clock. He laughed heartily at my description of some of the characters the questions were about.

When I rose to leave him, I begged he would excuse me for putting one question to him, in return for the many I had answered. He said, certainly, and that I would find him answer as frankly as I had done, and which had given him the greatest satisfaction.

I then begged to know how he was aware so humble an individual as I was in Montreal. He answered he knew me well before the present meeting. I replied, that was a mystery to me. He laughingly asked me if I had not had frequent communications with the Earl of Durham. I told him I had. He said, "His Lordship recommended me to see you early, as I might depend on a frank, fearless answer to any questions I might require to ask you. And his Chief Secretary, Mr. Buller, also told me if I wished to get information and the naked truth, I should, on arrival, send for you, which you see I have done."

From that day till his death his attention and kindness was unceasing. When he formed the council for the City he appointed me first alderman, in which capacity I acted from the middle of 1839 to the end of 1842. Being uniform and pointed in my attendance at all their meetings, I was very generally on the different committees. This consumed so much of my time that I refused to allow myself to be re-elected.

The end of 1840, His Excellency informed me, he had appointed me a Legislative Councillor, and in the Spring of 1841, I received from Britain my mandamus. Being obliged to go to Kingston from three to four months a year, living there at a great expense, and away from my business, I thought was paying rather high for this honour. But now the Houses of Parliament are to sit here, I will be saved all this.

The present Governor General, Sir C. Metcalf, has always been quite kind and attentive to me ever since he came to this country. But I cannot help thinking that at my first interview with His Excellency, now Lord Metcalf, having in answer to some of his questions, frankly, if not warmly, expressed my confidence in several of his first Executive Councillors, was in the way of my becoming a favourite with him. From all that passed at that first interview, and from what I have since seen and heard, I am firmly convinced he was prejudiced against these gentlemen from the first. In none of our frequent interviews afterwards did he open to me on politics or public characters, until at a meeting I had with him in the Old Government House in August last.

He had been much vexed and perplexed in trying to make up a new Ministry, that would command the confidence of the country, and consequently a majority in the Legislative Assembly. He opened frankly on this subject,

and told me how he had been thwarted, and asked me plainly how I thought he could make up a Ministry

I replied that with the addition of Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Laforcaine and the next best of that party, the Administration would be quite strong enough for every purpose. On hearing that, he struck the table with his clinched hand, and vowed he would never act with one of them.

I replied, your Excellency asked me to give my advice, which I have done, and I am very sorry it has been disagreeable. I hope you will excuse me having given my candid opinion.

He said, certainly, and that he was obliged for the advice, although he could not take it.

The subject was changed, and I left him more convinced than ever that Lord Metcalf was a very self-willed and stubborn man.

This is the year 1847. For nineteen years past I have devoted a great part of my time to the interests of the poor emigrants annually landing on our shores. They arrive here often in a most deplorable state of filth, sickness and destitution.

It was back in 1829 that a Society was formed, and public meetings were held, and subscriptions taken, for the purpose of helping the poorest of the emigrants to get to their destination. I made myself as useful as possible, and was successful in raising a very large sum for this work.

The Government lent us some of their land above Windmill Point, upon which we built wooden houses and sheds in which to shelter the sick and those who could not be sent off on their way at once. The Committee of this Society yearly published a statement of its transactions and outlays, and laid it before a meeting of citizens called on purpose of approval.

At this meeting a new Committee was formed and a Chairman, Secretary, &c., chosen. For the last sixteen or seventeen years I have been Chairman.

In 1832, the number of emigrants was about 52,000. By the crowded state of the vessels, much sickness and various kinds of fevers were engendered. Our accommodation at the sheds was found to be insufficient for such a mass of suffering humanity. The Infirmary, by their rules, could not take them in. The constituted authorities of the City would not lend us their aid. Our funds were exhausted. I applied to the Government for aid, but they had no funds for any such purpose. I again had resource to a charitable subscription, and was successful beyond my most sanguine expectations. By this, we were enabled to extend our accommodations, and we managed to get through this trying year very well.

I may here observe, that during 1832 on to 1834 when the cholera was so bad among the emigrants, not a person but those who were bribed, would go near them in their sheds. But I was there, morning, noon and night, to see that the keepers did their duty. The scenes I witnessed during these two years and in 1847, are far beyond my descriptive powers. I had, at all times, when exposed to these infections and dreadful maladies, my body strongly impregnated with sulphur, and felt confident of its making me proof against

infection, and by the blessing of God, and for His wise purpose, I was most mercifully preserved.

I have said nothing of my parliamentary duties, as nothing occurred of a very extraordinary nature. There have been the usual bickerings and low personalities between the place men and place hunters, between the "ins" and the "outs." The pretended Liberals or Reformers, Lafontaine, Hinks & Co'y, have for long past been playing so foul and false a game, that even I, who spoke to Lord Metcalf so strongly in their favour, have been completely changed in my opinion. The Rebellion Loss Bill, their putting in fourteen of their tools at once to swamp the independent part of the Legislative Council, and many of their other base delinquencies, have opened the eyes of most of their original friends, so that at the next election there will be such a change of members in the Lower House, as will deprive them of a majority. Indeed, I think some of the present ministers will not be returned, and will hence be compelled to withdraw from public life. No doubt the foolish and iniquitous act of the mob in burning the Parliament House, has strengthened the present Ministry. But for this they would have been compelled to resign, and Lord Elgin along with them. What a blessing this would have been to Canada. The base creatures know their danger, and will begin to provide judgements and other fat berths for themselves and friends.

Mrs. Ferrie and I had for many years past been talking of paying a visit to our native country. As I saw a very discontented spirit fast growing among the people here, particularly the formerly furiously loyal, who made advance to get me to join them, I hurried our preparations and took our passage by the ship "Mary Ann," bound for the Clyde. We sailed early in June, and had, for the season of the year, a boisterous passage of thirty-one days.

After an absence of twenty years, we had the pleasure of meeting our surviving friends and relatives in Scotland and England. Most of them were a great deal changed and time worn. Our reception by them, and generally wherever we went, and were at all known, was most cordial.

As the season of the year was advanced, we set off for Ireland, and spent some time in Dublin and the neighbourhood. We then crossed the Channel to Liverpool, where we spent ten days enjoying ourselves. We went from Liverpool to London; there we stayed a week. Then we took a steamer for France and landed in Boulogne. Seeing all in that neighborhood, we proceeded to Amiens; the Cathedral there, where the coronations took place for centuries, is magnificent. We spent two or three weeks in Paris, seeing the public buildings and gardens, art galleries and statuary, and sight-seeing in general. We were delighted with everything; but the palaces at Versailles and their surroundings threw all we had previously seen into the shade. I could with pleasure have spent a week looking at the things we had only a day to admire; it was like a dream or a scene from Fairyland as described in the famous Tales. We next went through Belgium, and stayed a week at the Belview, Brussels. We did not forget to visit the field of Waterloo. We saw the review of troops before the King, Queen and Court at Antwerp. Mrs.

Ferrie began to get home sick and tired of sight-seeing, and would not agree to go up the Rhine, as we proposed on leaving London. I meant to have crossed into Germany to visit my old haunts, and to have returned by Hamburg, my headquarters for several years. I lived in Hamburg from the Spring of 1798 till the Fall of 1801.

We took a steamer from Antwerp direct to London, and spent ten days at Clapham Common, my nephew John Ferrie's princely abode. We then went to Bath and spent a week with our nephew, Mr. H. Aikman. After visiting friends at Bristol we came back to London, took the express train to York, and spent a day there, seeing the Cathedral and other sights, and went from thence to Edinburgh, where we stayed ten days with our numerous relatives in the City and countryside. Finally we went to Glasgow, took lodgings, where we remained for four months.

The hospitality we received during this time, I look back to with the most grateful feelings, and while we live we will never forget it, or be able to repay it. We visited again my native place, Irvine. The kindness of our relatives and friends there, was far beyond our deserts. The Provost called a meeting of the magistrates and council and they voted me the freedom of the Borough, and invited me to meet them next day to receive the diploma, which was delivered by Provost Robertson, after a very eloquent, and to me, most flattering speech. We then proceeded in a body to the head Inn, and had a *déjeuner* at which all the elite of the place were assembled to pay their compliments on the occasion; and surely they did butter me thick enough.

We again went to Edinburgh to take leave of our friends, who quite overpowered us with their kindness. While in Edinburgh, I received a second invitation from the citizens of Glasgow, to a public dinner to be given to me on the 15th of April. They would take no refusal. This hurried us from Edinburgh, as we had many places to visit ere the day came. We went to Pt. Glasgow, and spent a few happy days with our relatives there. From there we went to Greenock, and put up at my nephew's, Thomas Fairrie, where such kindness and attention were paid, which must have made us happy, independent of the sumptuous eating and drinking which we partook of during the eight days we spent with him. We returned to Glasgow on the 15th in time for the dinner, which went off well. There were only about one hundred who sat down, whereas had it not been for some untoward circumstances, three times that number would have been present. The newspapers gave a very fair report of the whole affair.

We took passage home by the steamer City of Glasgow, which sailed direct from the Broomilaw to New York. The leavetaking was a most painful thing to us. We left the Broomilaw on the afternoon of the 16th of April, and, after encountering bad weather and head winds nearly all the way, and being several times surrounded by ice, we arrived on the morning of the 3rd of May at New York, where we found our sons, Colin and John, waiting to welcome us to this side of the wide Atlantic.

We remained three days in New York, and arrived at Montreal on the 8th of May. After spending a short time there, we set off to visit the different members of our family now settled at Toronto, Hamilton and Dover Mills. I left my dear wife to enjoy her children's society in the two latter places, while I went to attend to my Parliamentary duties in Toronto. I went to Hamilton every Saturday, returning on the Monday morning.

Not approving of the conduct of the Ministry, and seeing it hopeless to stem the torrent of gross abuse practiced by the Executive, I left for sweet home eight days before the Session ended.

I may here remark that there was no difficulty in getting in the House of Assembly an overwhelming majority for any measure, however bad, if proposed by Lafontaine, Hinks & Co'y. And this will ever be the case while the constituencies of this Colony return so many needy, greedy, unprincipled lawyers: they have been in the habit of doing. Forty-seven lawyers in a Legislative Assembly of eighty-four members! Was ever the like known? The thing is infamous, and tending to the ruin of this new country. If there was no pay given, there would be fewer of the briefless lawyers. They get a pound per day while the session lasts, besides travelling expenses, while many of them could not make at home a dollar a day.

How easily such men may be bribed to sell the best interests of the country. It makes me sick.

In politics the year 1850 to 1855 produced nothing very important in this Colony. There was the constant chiselling and villainy of Hinks and the other base creatures in the Executive Government of this devoted country. I attended the sessions of Parliament during these five years, and I can say that every year the barefaced dishonesty of those in power, kept steadily increasing. At every session I embraced every opportunity of exposing their malversations, but they seemed so wholly corrupt as to be insensible to shame. I could not stand it, and left them in the middle of the session of 1854 for Britain, my wife going with me. We visited all quarters of the country, and received great kindness and attention both publicly and privately. We returned the end of 1855.

As determined upon before we left, we came and took up house in Hamilton, as the whole of our family were there or in the neighbourhood.

During my stay in Montreal for about 30 years, I made very many dear acquaintances and strong attachments, and the leaving it has cost me great grief.

I may remark, although during my residence in that City I had from first to last made myself as useful as possible, I never was paid any public compliment, excepting that the newspapers often gave me great credit.

I attended the greater part of the session of Parliament this year, 1856, and am sorry to be obliged to say those in power are going from bad to worse. Many of the public acts of the present Ministry are so bad and unprincipled, that I will just leave them as described in the newspapers. A day of reckoning, I hope, is close at hand.

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BORN AT IRVINE, SCOTLAND,
15TH MARCH, 1777.

DIED AT HAMILTON, CANADA,
24TH DECEMBER, 1863.
